Thaumatropes

Kit contains:

- 2 Printed cardboard circles
- 2 Blank cardboard circles
- 4 Pieces of String

You will need: scissors, glue, hole punch or nail, and drawing supplies.

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A thaumatrope or “wonder turner” is an optical illusion based on combining two images with movement. It was invented in 1826 by the English physician J.A. Paris.

INSTRUCTIONS

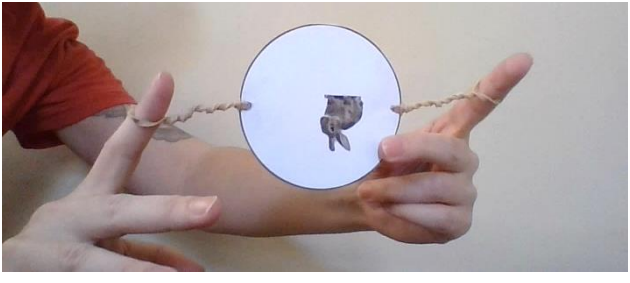
Step 1. Cut out the two circles printed with images: magic hat and rabbit.

Step 2. Punch holes where indicated on the sides of the circles.

Step 3. Glue the circles back to back, aligning the holes. One should be right side up and the other upside down.

Step 4. Tie two of the strings into loops. Poke a loop through each hole. Secure as shown.

To use your thaumatrope: Loop the strings around your index fingers. Turn the cardboard circle to wind the strings. Then let go! In the spinning image, you will see a rabbit appear in the magician's hat.



Create Your Own Optical Illusion

This kit contains supplies to build a second thaumatrope. The key is to create an image in two parts that will combine into a whole. Draw half of your illusion on one circle and the other half on the other. Perhaps you'll put a fish in a bowl or add a mustache to a baby. Be creative!

(Funny wig thaumatrope by J.A. Paris, 1825)

STEM Connection

The optical effect is produced by persistence of vision, the retention of the first image by the brain long enough to superimpose it on the other, making the two parts of the image appear together.